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OUR JOURNEY

Years ago people were identified by the own or village they came from and their arentage. There was a real sense of elonging, not only to a family but to a ommunity. The genealogy of Jesus of azareth in Matthew 1:1-17 supports this. Ve are introduced to our Savior's lineage efore we are told the wondrous story of is birth.

For those of us of Eastern European ncestry, genealogical research once eemed out of reach; something only Iayflower descendants could explore. imes have changed. Resources are now vailable which provide more information nd make it accessible to more people – nd new information is added each day.

Are you ready for our journey? I'll pro- ide you with a map of sorts and a list of provisions." The rest is up to you as you egin your journey of your family's past.

The first and best place to begin your earch is with yourself. Spend some quiet me and write down (or record on a cas- ette player) your personal data and that f your immediate family. Include names, ates, and locations of births, marriages, nd deaths. Research must be accurate, so fficial records are important. Include any dditional information you feel important military service, careers, and anecdotes orth noting. Remember, this is <u>your</u> story r future generations.

Next, organize and label photographs. nportant links to our past are often lost hen photos can't be identified.

Now you're ready to compile your infor- ation and to further your search for more eces to the puzzle. The best place to get e basics is at your local public library. ooks, like the large print <u>How to Climb our Family Tree</u> are a good start. And the ngle greatest source of information is just keystroke away; I'm talking about the ternet. Don't fear – a helpful librarian ill be around to get you started and, no oubt, FREE classes will also be available. Note: Many patrons availing themselves these classes are senior citizens.)

There are several websites which may be

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THE CARPENTER'S PRAYER

O Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ look down upon me this day as I am about to do Thy will in the vineyard of mankind.

I give Thee honor. I glorify Thee for giving me this day to be with my family and my friends to help each other and to help those who are burdened and downtrodden and to give support and help to those who are grief-stricken.

Dear Lord, give eternal rest and perpetual memory to our loved ones and to our friends. For this I beseech Thee this day and always, My Saviour and Redeemer. Amen.

WHY SO MANY

There are candles lighted in the church. Why do we need them, especially in the daytime? Candles are messy, smoke up the walls of the church, and someone has to clean the holders and discard the unburned ones. With some of these reasons, some churches are discouraging the use of candles.

From very early in the life of the Church, in all churches candles were kept burning, not only during evening and night services, but during day services as well. They signify that the Lord gives us the Light of Truth, and that our souls burn with the love of God and are penetrated with feelings of joy and devotion.

There is even a special hymn which is sung at the setting of the sun when the first candles of the evening service inspired the magnificent Vesper Hymn, "O gladsom radiance of the Holy Glory of the Father..." This and other hymns of light are identified this way because their subject is the illumination of the soul from on high as symbolized by the light.

Christ is called the Light. He is the Light who shows us the true meaning of our lives and sense to our world. Candles recall the living presence of Christ in our midst as we pray; they are a sign of joy that chases away the gloom of darkness. The candles lighted in the Church remind

(Continued on Page 57, Col. 1)

THE MEETING

In St. Luke 2:22-34 we read that on the fortieth day after His Birth, according to the Law of Moses, Jesus was brought into the Temple to present Him to the Lord, and to offer a sacrifice customary on such occasions: a pair of doves or two young pigeons.

Living in Jerusalem at this time was a just and devout man named Simeon, who, according to the Bible, "waited for the consolation of Israel, that is, the promised Messiah; because the Holy Spirit had revealed to him (Simeon) that he should not die before he had seen the Lord's Christ. The same Holy Spirit led him into the temple when Jesus was brought there for presentation.

Holy Tradition informs us that Simeon was one of the seventy translators of the Old Testament. In 277 B.C. he was assigned translation of Prophet Isaiah's book. When Simeon began to translate the verse in Isaiah's book in which he foretold that Jesus Christ was to be born of a Virgin, (Isaiah 7:14) he doubted the truthfulness of these words and wanted to efface the word "Virgin" with a knife, but an angel of God appeared to him and commanded him to believe the exact wording of this prophesy, and because of this he (Simeon) would not die until the prophesy would be fulfilled.

This is why Simeon rejoiced when he saw the young child, the expected Redeemer. He took the young child in his arms and praising God he said: "Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace, according to Thy Word; for my eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou has prepared before the face of all people; a Light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of Thy people's Israel." This prayer of St. Simeon is sung at all Vesper Services in the Orthodox Church.

The Holy Day of the Meeting of the Lord is observed on February 2/15. In some churches at the end of the liturgy, candles are blessed for home use. On the fortieth day after their birth, babies are presented to the church for their "incorporation" into the church.

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CHRONOLOGY

FEBRUARY 2000

DIED: **Fr. John Kuchta,** 62, Bethesda, M.D.
Fr. Jaroslav Roman, retired, 49 years, in Bradenton, FL, Dec. 7.
Metropolitan Dorothei, in Prague, 86.
Matushka Irene Suskuk, 30, and children, **Nathaniel,** 7, **Chelsea,** 4, and **Nicolai,** 2. They perished in a fire on St. Paul Island in Alaska on Dec. 22. They were buried in Kwethluk.

KUDOS to Harry Kowalako and Peter Vanish, who have served as President and Vice-President of the Board of Assumption Church in Clifton, NJ for 40 years.

THE OFFICIAL MILLENNIUM CELEBRATION will be held at St. Tikhon's Monastery at St. Canaan, PA in conjunction with the annual Memorial Day pilgrimage on May 28-29. A special icon has been commissioned and copies will be distributed to all parishes of the OCA, along with the text for a Special Service of Thanksgiving.

SPIRITUAL ACTIVITIES in the parish of the Holy Spirit in Schererville, are the responsibility of St. Stephen Society, which has 30 members. Members visit and prepare meals for the sick and shut-ins. They record sermons and videotape special services for the homebound. They hold monthly moleben services in front of the local abortuary. They hold clothing drives for the St. Nicholas Home in Presov and for the local St. Monica Home for unwed mothers. They also support Serbian Orthodox orphans in Bosnia. The priest is Fr. Mark Tyson. How commendable!

INTERNET SUBSCRIBERS in Kiev number 20,000. There are 20 providers. It is hoped that, with the privatization of UrTeleKom, there will be cheaper and better quality access throughout the nation.

THE ELEVENTH ANNUAL ORTHODOX MISSION RETREAT will be sponsored by The Orthodox Christian Missionary Center in St. Augustine, FL from March 3-5 in Sterrett, AL, which is located south of Birmingham. Contact Andrew Lekos, Tel. (904) 829-5132 or Fax (904) 829-1635 or E-mail ajlekos@ocmc.org.

THE BELLS STOLEN FROM THE SAN FRANCISCO (OCA) Cathedral had been returned on September 1. The three mission bells were a gift of Tsar Alexander III in 1888. Bells of this era and style are unique in America and even in Russia, where many bells were destroyed after the 1917 Revolution. These American bells survived the great earthquake and fire of 1906.

PRESIDENT CLINTON, his wife and daughter visited the Ecumenical Patriarch in Istanbul. Part of their visit included prayers at a part of the pillar where Jesus was whipped. This part of the column of flagellation in the Chapel of St. George is one of three: the other two parts are in Jerusalem and the Vatican.

ORTHODOX PEOPLE TOGETHER is a network of Orthodox dedicated to work for a united administrative witness in North America. They are now constructing a web page to continue the OPT Newsletter, which had a circulation of 4000. For more info access www.OrthodoxPeopleTogether.org. Volunteers are needed.

BOOKS FOR CHILDREN can be purchased from St. Vladimir's Seminary Press. Five new books were recently released. For a catalog or info call SVS Press at 1-800-204-2665 (9-5, M-F or E-mail svspress@svots.edu.)

A GERMAN TOURIST TO MT. ATHOS in October went wandering by himself and got lost. He used a mobile phone to alert his family in Germany. They alerted Greek authorities and a search was made involving police, monks, and a helicopter. Monks informed him about the types of plants he could eat until he would be rescued.

THE EARTHQUAKES IN TURKEY appear to have inflicted no damage to Hagia Sophia, the 1600-year-old church. It was feared that structural damage would have been suffered.

REGINA ORTHODOX PRESS, PO Box 5288, Salisbury, MA 01952 has many books in its catalog. The latest is The Pearl: A handbook for Orthodox converts by Michael Whelton. This book would be useful not only for converts but for all Orthodox who want to know more about their faith. Especially useful are the chapters "Questions asked by Roman Catholics" and "Questions asked by Protestants." For those disheartened by the many controversies in the Church, Mystery of the Church by William Bush would be enlightening.

ST. NECTARIUS PRESS, 10300 Ashworth Avenue N, Seattle, WA 98133-9410 has published books since 1977. Its latest release is The Bread of Life, a collection of mostly original Orthodox short stories by Barbara Priscilla Johnson. We found this book easy reading, suited for older teens and adults. The book reflects the Orthodox mind-set and has stories centered in many countries. 116 pages, $8.50 plus $3 shipping. Ask for catalog.

THE NARROW PATH BOOKSTORE, 18550 Stony Island, Lansing, MI 60438 has available either a cassette tape ($10) or compact disc ($15) of the Octet of the Serbian Orthodox School of Theology in Libertyville, IL, commemorating its 10th anniversary. Order a catalog which lists books, ikons and gift items.

YEVSHAN UKRAINIAN Catalogue, Box 1075, Champlain, NY 12919-1075. Handmade wooden items from the Carpathians, ethnic music, cassettes, books of all kinds, material on Easter eggs.

ORTHODOX STUDIES ON INTERNET (ISOS) are available free of charge to all Orthodox faithful. The series of 90-minute educational classes were set on the campus of Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology. The classes website is www.goarch.org/webcasts/religious ed.html.

PRESIDENT VLADIMIR PUTIN sought the blessing of Russia's Orthodox Church Patriarch to help him run the country after being invested with the powers of Head of State. Russia's Orthodox Church has become an integral element in the affairs of the state and is present at all major events.

•Our Journey

very beneficial in your research. The Balch Institute for Ethnic Studies has been compiling death records from the Russian Brotherhood Organization. Those interested may contact: www.balchinstitute.org. Other websites providing more information are: www.lemko.org and www.carpatho-rusyn.org. Additional information can also be located through www.genealogy.com and www.family search.com.

The study of one's genealogy is a slow but very interesting process. Don't become disheartened, though, by a seemingly lack of progress, for the next "find" may be cause for celebration.

Next month I'll share with you my visit to a special library that provided a gold mine of a find – a journey which took me to a small Lemko village with an old wooden church.

Margaret Pysarchyk

•Why So Many

us of the Holy Presence of Christ and the Saints who are truly among us. When we light a candle before an icon, the candle burns as a sign of our constant prayer. St. John Kronstadt said that the burning candles stand for our ardent zeal and the sincere sacrifice we make out of reverence and gratitude before whom we light the candles.

MEDITATION

February 2/15 - Presentation of our Lord in the Temple

Hebrews 7: 7-17 Luke 2: 22-40

O holy Lord, You came down from heaven without forsaking Your divinity, and as an infant, accepted to be carried in the arms of the righteous Simeon. After his encounter with You, he humbly asked to depart this life because, at last, He beheld with his own eyes the Salvation that had been prepared for all nations. Grant that we may also see the good things that You promised for those who love You with all their hearts. O Lord, listen to our prayers offered to You on this feast, and have mercy.

We have searched through the books of the Old Testament, O Jesus, and clearly see You as the Fulfillment of the law and the prophets. Illumine with Your grace those who have not yet found You nor can call You by Name. Grant that through the prayers of Your church, all people may come to know You, be united to You, and be joined in a common bond of love. O Lord, listen to our prayers offered to You on this feast, and have mercy.

O Christ, we profess that You are Light of Light and true God of true God. Through Your birth in the flesh, You dispelled the darkness of those who sat in ignorance and shadow. Therefore, as we sail on the sea of life, let Your unapproachable light illumine our paths, so that, we may obey Your commandments, and do Your will in all things. O Lord, listen to our prayers offered to You on this feast, and have mercy.

Ray Mastroberte

I HAVEN'T KILLED ANYONE

As a reason for not going to confession some people state that they haven't killed anyone or abused anyone. But there are subtle sins which lead to bigger ones. An astute father confessor can detect a pattern and warn us about this. Patriarch Tikhon of Moscow, who was a bishop in the U.S. about a hundred years ago, compiled a Model for Confession, which starts and ends the prayers used in some parishes.

"I, a sinner, confess to the Lord God, Almighty, One in the Holy Trinity, to the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God, to all the Saints, and to you my Father confessor, all my sins. I have sinned through: gossip, scorn, insubordination, pride, envy, anger, slander, listlessness, negligence, carelessness, attachment to things, resentment, disobedience, lying, self-will, reproaching others, nursing wrongs, accepting impure thoughts, love of money, vain glory, laziness, love of sensual pleasure, neglect of prayer, missing church services, grumbling, evil speech, conceal sins at confession, inattention in church, self-love, love of honor, love of glory, gluttony, drunkenness.

"For these and all my other sins, known and unknown, by which I have offended and angered the Good God against me, I am heartfully sorry: I repent sincerely and I promise with the help of God to better my life. For these and all the sins of my past life, I humbly ask pardon of God."

BURIAL HEADBAND

Many have questioned what the "burial headband," was which was wrapped around Mrs. Gorbachev's forehead. In the Russian Orthodox Church it was customary to place upon the brow of the dead a headband, which is a strip of material upon which are depicted our Lord Jesus Christ, His holy Mother, and St. John the Baptist; together with the Thrice-Holy (Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy upon us). The dead Christian is thus adorned with the wreath like an athlete who, with honor, has left the field of contest; or like a warrior who has won a victory. The figures printed on the wreath signify that he who has run his earthly career hopes to receive the crown for his deeds solely through the mercy of the Triune God and the mediation of the Mother of our Lord and of His Forerunner.

Placing of the headband is a common practice in Russia. For a time we did not see the headband upon the brow of the dead because they were unavailable in the U.S. It is now possible to purchase them, and many funeral directors who have Russian Orthodox funerals have a supply.

WINTER'S GRACE

BEATITUDES FOR FRIENDS OF THE AGED

BLESSED are they who understand my faltering step and palsied hand.

BLESSED are they who know that my ears today must strain to catch the things they say.

BLESSED are they who seem to know that my eyes are dim and my wits are slow.

BLESSED are they who look away when coffee spilled at table today.

BLESSED are they with a cheery smile who stop to chat for a little while.

BLESSED are they who never say: "You've told that story twice today."

BLESSED are they who know the ways to bring back memories of yesterdays.

BLESSED are they who make it known that I'm loved, respected and not alone.

BLESSED are they who know that I'm at a loss to find the strength to carry the Cross.

BLESSED are they who ease the days of my journey Home in loving ways.

"You promise us many changes today, Lord, and we thank You for helping us meet our hour to hour living confidently and courageously. We can do all things with Your Divine Help. Amen."

* * * * * *

The peacock is often depicted on tombstones, on walls and ikonastasis in churches. It is considered a symbol of the Resurrection as it has an annual moulting and renewal of its beautiful tail feathers. The shape of the peacock also lends itself to artistic use.

PRESS FUND

We recently read the following: "Nothing we do, however virtuous, can be accomplished alone." How true this is! We could not continue to publish The Orthodox Herald without your help. Spasebo/Thank You.

Helen Durniak, Ethel Watlock, Harry Gobora, **Jonathan Russin,** Afton Chowansky, Constantina Morgan, Michael & Edythe Bondarchuk, Charles Smith, Marie Grabania, Anonymous, Edward & Vivian Hartley, Irene Allen, Vera Hershey, Fr. John Haluszcak, Dr. & Mrs. Theodore Thamel, Anamay Rossomando, **John & Jennie Matyi, Steve & Mary Matrician,** Fr. Paul Karas, Tim & Mary Goomas, Theodore Cramer, Helen Dzugan, Marvin Kiehl, Olga Peck, Mary Kuyon, Michael Kuchka. Bishop Roman, **Anne Dorozynski,** Cyril & Winfred Wadzita, Sarah Jubinski, Shirley Young, Juliana Kuzmack, Beverly Karol, Eli & Sophia McKay, Betty Swizz.

Christmas gifts were received for the Press Fund from: Velma Bova, **Don & Carol Holobinko.** John & Theona Hatzi, William & Mary Reichenbach, Harry & Rose Kulick.

Steve & Lenora Evancho for health of Claudia Sulin, Father Basil and Matushka Nina Stroyen and in loving memory of John & Anna Sulin and George & Helen Evancho. **Charlie** and **Katherine Dekilas** prayers for daughter and grandchildren Alex and Athonia. Sophia Nahorniak prayers for health. Paul & Ellen Shiptenko prayers in memory of parents Victor & Helen Malacky and Prof. Elias and Pauline (Pelagia) Shiptenko. Julia Sobarnia in memory of husband John (died May 5, 1999) and brother Frank, parents Philip & Anna Pelak, Helen Pelak and sister Eva Replyuk. **John & Dorothy Koropchak** in memory of Steve and Frank Pelak and for health of Fr. Basil and Matushka Nina Stroyen. **Arnold & Julia Katko** in memory of parents and **Natalie Katko** in memory of grandparents. **Jim, Johanna & Miriam Wagner** in memory of all departed loved ones and in gratitude to God for blessings. **Helen Warhol** in memory of husband John who died suddenly September 9, 1999. Apollo & Elizabeth Manchuk in memory of Manchuk and Manchuk families. **George Fritch** in memory of wife Carolyn who died October 16, 1998.

ETHNIC CHUCKLE

Dorohaya Tyotya Mareea,

Yak tam kolo vas? Toot shitko awright. Yah teper mam flower power. Tak peeshlo.

Me husband ee ya peeshlee shopping for Thanksgiving boh yah was planning invitovatee krayanee doh nas nah tot Amerikanskee praznick.

Me checkovalee noveenkee nah ads ee nashlee deh novee shtor u veleekee shopping center mal best prices Besides this, first sto customairee will get free turkey – indyuk (pullka). Me peeshlee very early noh parking lot was full. Me musheelee parking barz dsleko ot shtoru. Yah beehala doh storyu ee dostala slipsue nah free turkey. Then yah shopovala nah druhee thingsee. Yah kupela, sweet kartoflee, deenyou, stuffing, cranberries, yablockee nah pie, ee druhee vegetablee ee fruitee and cider.

Kolee yah finished shopping yah peeshla nah front of store ee tam bulee takee velekee lines nah checkout. Me husband neh hotchelee stoyatee tak long ee pohabeel mene ee peeshol doh caree. After long time yah checked out ee pushovala me cart nah vonka. Yah bulla taka surprised boh yah nashla takee veliki guard rail ee yah neh mohla bratee cart doh parking lot. Yah dumam what I gotta do? Yah neh leaving full cart tam ee going hladatee caru. Yah decided to checkatee tam mozhe me staree coming after me. Yah stoyou ee stoyou. Yah chekam ee checkam!

Yah getting taka mad! Then yah dumam yah must take bags ee go doh caree. Yah peeshla doh direction deh yah dumam me parkovalee caru. Yah walking ee walking noh neh mohla find caru. Yah taka tired. Packachee takee heavy. Yah mam twenty five pound turkey ee shitko druhheh. Yah starting to panicovatee. Yah brala rest ee klalaa packages nah cars that were parked.

Finally, yah dostala idea ee yah dumam what the heck ee yah starting kretchatee: "Staree, staree, deh tea?" Ohn me neh otveteel. Yah dostalaa madder eeh starting kretchatee u takee voice yak me kretchalee ot sella doh sells kolee yah living in Europee kolo vas. Yah calling: "Yoh, hoe, yoh hoe, staree, staree."

Preshla car alright. Noh me relief bull short boh toh cara mala uniform cheloveka. Ohn preshol doh mena ee asked: "I'm a security cop. What's wrong lady? Someone molesting you?"

Yah bulla taka embarrassed. Me bullo tak highmba. Yah tell him me story ee ohn kazhe: "Hop in, lady. I'll help you look."

Me finally nashlee caru ee in it me nashlee me husbandah – fast asleep. Yah neh musyu vam poveestee yakee fight me malee nah way home. Anyhow, kolee me preshlee domu me next door neighbor me poveela to put plastic flower nah radio aerial. ee: "That terrible experience won't happen again."

Budtah zdrovee,
Feeling like turkey,
Hanya.

Dabs of Thoughts

St. John of Karpathos said: "The Lord desires one person to be saved through another, and in the same way Satan strives to destroy one person through another. So don't spend your time with someone who is sloppy, a trouble-maker, doesn't guard what he says, because you may be sent with him into punishment.

It is hard enough for one who associates with a good person to attain salvation. If you don't watch yourself but spend time with people of evil character, you will be infected with their (spiritual) leprosy and be destroyed.

How can anyone expect pity if they recklessly approach a poisonous snake? You should avoid those who cannot control their tongue, who are quarrelsome, and full of agitation – inwardly or outwardly.

Without theological scholarship we are condemned to a very superficial spiritual life. We must seriously approach the sources, study Divine Revelation, the witnesses throughout history (saints), our own Church history, our expressions of this patristic tradition, then we can hope for a renewal in the Church.

Many of our churches in America have been ethnically cleansed.

St. Basil the Great wrote in the 4th century about observing Holy Traditionas as well as Holy Scripture. "Of the dogmas ... preserved in the Church, certain ones we have from written instruction (the Scriptures), and certain ones we have received from the Apostolic Tradition...Both the one and the other have the same authority for piety, and no one who is even the least informed in the decrees of the Church will contradict this. For if we dare to overthrow the unwritten customs as if they did not have great importance, we shall thereby imperceptibly do harm to the Gospel in its most important points." (From On The Holy Spirit, Ch. 27.)

Zaccheus, the short man who climbed a sycamore tree to see Jesus (St. Luke 19:1-10), later became the bishop of Caesaria.

St. Andrew's icon of the Holy Trinity should more correctly be titled "The Hospitality of Abraham."

It is surprising to see so many enter the Church Sunday after Sunday who do not venerate the holy icon on the tetrapod. It betrays either a genuine lack of spiritual education or a complete misunderstanding of the teachings of the Church regarding holy icons.



EDITORS' NOTES

Every morning when he left for work, George Walko, a carpenter, said the prayer which you can find on the first page. He shares it so that those who find it helpful can add it to their prayer book.

In the past few months we have been informed of two groups of non-Orthodox, non-Russian speaking who have put together a repertoire of Russian Orthodox Liturgical music in Slavonic. Their pronounciation, timing and enunciation is excellent. One group has released a CD (see chronology), the other put on a concert in New York for a fund-raising. How sad, that Orthodox parishes cannot put on such a concert. Have others found the treasure we are discarding?

We read in official news publications that a man is ordained or a priest accepted from another jurisdiction and nothing is written about this background: Where is he from, where did he study, does he have family or another profession, etc. There are not that many ordinations or acceptances in a month that this information cannot be given.

We called a church office to find out the hours of services on a Sunday morning. We were given the times and then a sentence was added: "You can come up for Holy Communion, confession is not necessary." Is this widespread?

The Internet is an easy means of worldwide communication and carries news as well as rumors. For the past few months there have been many references concerning the "Orthodox Church in America" (O.C.A.). As the months go by, it does no good for the central administration to be silent on this matter.

Thank you so much for your Christmas and New Year's greetings. We especially enjoyed the notes and letters outlining your past year; but we did miss the pictures. So few were included this year.

As I was typing these Editors' Notes, I heard a thumping at the side of the house. I paid no attention to it for awhile, thinking it was the young man who cares for our yard. As it didn't stop, I looked out the window and startled a big black bird. It was as big as a roasting chicken. I don't know why it was thumping; but since it hasn't returned, I'll never know.

If you are the least bit interested in the Carpathian trip in September, please let me know as soon as possible and include your phone number. We must plan our tour and make arrangements with the travel agency.

Because we have received so many more Easter basket covers, I have ordered more from Europe. The village women were very disappointed when I had previously informed them that I would not be selling any more. They desperately need the money they make from the sale. Help them.

God Be With You,

The Stroyens

FUNDS

ALASKA FUND: Stephen Teplica, Frank and Patricia Ann Kaminsky, Barbara Garbinski in memory of her mother Anastasia Wimmer, Andrew Mihaly, Joseph Burchick, Harold Homyak, Dorothy Burochanock, **Alexis Fedec** in memory of great-uncle Protopriest Andrew Fedetz.

MISSION FUND: Stephen Karas, Mary Wasylko.

BOTH ALASKA AND MISSION FUNDS: Anonymous, Marie Grabania, Apollo Manchuk, **Betty Swizz,** Paul Stuchlak, George Kupar, Anamay Rossomando, Ethel Watlock.

PRAYER FOR THE NATION

George Washington's prayer for our nation belies the present stance on separation of church and state, where it is politically incorrect to mention God or the Almighty.

"Almighty God, we make our earnest prayer that Thou will keep the United States in Thy holy protection; that Thou will incline the hearts of the citizens to cultivate a spirit of subordination and obedience to government...and finally that Thou wilt most graciously be pleased to dispose us all to do justice, to love mercy and to demean ourselves with that charity, humility and pacific temper of mind which were the characteristics of the Divine Author of our blessed religion, and without a humble imitation of whose example in these things we can never hope to be a happy nation.

* * * * * *

The reason for the Divine Liturgy is for the worship of God not to make us feel good.



The cold days here in northeastern United States were the spark for conversation on what we had for lunch on school days. Many of us went to school before the advent of school buses or the serving of lunch in the school. Very few children brought sandwiches; if they did, they were egg sandwiches with ketchup. For most of us, the noonday bell meant a fast run, sometimes a mile long, home for lunch, a quick bite and then dash back in time for the bell. It is interesting that most could not remember much of what they ate. Some said they had either coffee or tea or cocoa diluted with a half cup of milk and a piece of bread with butter or grape jelly. When the mother had time, she made some variation of burnt flour soup and served it with whatever she had on hand. No one could remember ever hearing a name for it. We give it one what-cha-ma-call-it.

What-cha-ma-call-it Soup

1/4 cup shortening
1/4 cup flour
1 quart milk
salt & pepper to taste

Heat shortening over low heat. Gradually add the flour and stir constantly until the mixture sizzles and makes a brown paste. Add the milk very slowly, stirring quickly to avoid lumps. Simmer until well mixed and quite thick. Glop it over hot chunks of potato.

Variations: Mothers changed it with whatever they had on hand. They used lard, sometimes butter and water instead of milk. They would flavor it by sizzling a few tablespoons of caraway seed before adding the flour or browning a little bit of onion or garlic before adding the liquid. To make it more filling, they put some chunks of leftover potatoes in the soup. Sometimes they dried some bread on the stove, cut it up and made croutons. Our favorite were the small halushki/dumplings they made by mixing an egg with a bit of water and enough flour to thicken (so that it would not fall apart) and dropped into boiling water from the tip of a spoon.

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Information for understanding Orthodoxy

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KNOW OR BELIEVE IN GOD

No person should dare to say that they know God. They can say "I believe in God," but Jesus, alone, has pronounced the words: "I know Him." And He immediately explained how He knows Him, saying: "for I am from Him and He sent Me." (John 7:29).

His saying: "for I am with Him," testifies to the eternal being of Him as a Son, and "He sent Me" testifies to His temporary stay as the Son in the physical world.

It is not given to us Christians to know the Father as His only-begotten Son knows Him. But it is given to us and demanded of us to believe. Our merit is in believing, not in knowing. If we all knew God by seeing Him, where would the merit be? What sort of merit is there in knowing through sight? But not to see and yet to believe – in this is merit and virtue and our salvation.

We are not worthy to see God and to know Him by sight, for we are alienated from God by sin. But the mercy of God has given us faith, which can help us to draw near to Him in this earthly life and to lead us to the Kingdom of seeing and knowing forever in the life to come.

Let us believe Christ the Lord, for He knows, He speaks not by faith but by sight.

"O merciful Lord, strengthen our faith. Show us the hem of Thy garment, that we may grasp it as did the woman with the issue of blood and may we hold it to the end of our days. To Thee be glory and praise forever. Amen."

Home Bible Reading Schedule

FEBRUARY 2000

1 Mark 10: 2-12	16 Mark 12:28-37
2 Luke 2:22-40	17 Mark 12:38-44
3 Mark 10:17-27	18 Mark 13:1-8
4 Mark 10:23-32	19 Luke 18:2-8
5 Luke 16:10-15	20 **Luke 18:10-14**
6 **Matt 15:21-28**	21 Mark 13:9-13
7 Mark 10:46-52	22 Mark 13:14-23
8 Mark 11:11-23	23 Mark 13:24-31
9 Mark 11:23-26	24 Mark 13:31-14:2
10 John 15:17-16:2	25 Mark 14:3-9
11 Mark 12:1-12	26 Luke 20:46-21:4
12 Luke 17:3-10	27 **Luke 15:11-32**
13 **Luke 19:1-10**	28 Mark 11:1-11
14 Mark 12:13-17	29 Mark 14:10-42
15 Mark 12:18-27	"Leap Year"

BIBLE STUDY

LET[illegible]RE IN THE FATHER'S JOY

[illegible] of the Prodigal Son (Luke 1[illegible]h we observe on February 2[illegible]hat lent is approaching. It is a ti[illegible] we are again invited to take up the challenge of fasting and give special attention to the state of our soul and our spirit.

It is not usually pleasant to think of things such as discipline and denying oneself the things one likes in order to purify one's body and soul. This is why the Church wisely shows us the goal of our efforts in advance by this parable of the prodigal son and his marvelous father, as well as his brother who seems strangely familiar to us.

This brother is as we often are: quite ready to condemn and to complain that others are better treated than he is. It is not at all uncommon for people to turn their attention away from their own faults by pointing at the faults of others around them.

But it is a most risky thing to do. When we keep doing this we run the risk of never waking up to the consciousness of our own sins and faults which are sometimes quite grave. The tragedy is that we could if we would but see **ourselves** as the prodigal son we could **all** receive the warm, loving, joyous welcome that this son found in the parable. What joy that would be! What treasures we would receive!

Let's prepare for such happiness by learning to share in the joy of the wonderful Father; Jesus described in the parable who found His son **alive!** If we can share in His joy we shall ultimately find that the event which gives such joy is not only the rediscovery of our brothers and sisters but also **the resurrection of our own souls** to the fullness of life **here and now!** What joy! What treasures!

Dr. Ihor G. Kutash

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KEEP GROWING

If we look at nature we see that when something stops growing it dies. The same is true with us. We must grow or we die. This is true in all areas of our lives. All of us know many alive and alert people who are in their eighties and nineties, people who have read and watched and listened and learned something new every day. We also know people younger than ourselves who have not read a book or had a new idea in years and are physically healthy, yet intellectually dying. Christian education must grow or it too will die. Christian education is a lifetime experience. It begins when we are young and as we mature it must become more mature and it continues on into eternity.